

THE ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA

STANDING COMMITTEE ON OBSERVATIONAL ACTIVITIES

FROM NATIONAL CHAIRMAN

Bulletin No. 5

The Society's annual General Assembly affords our Committee the rare opportunity of meeting in person instead of by correspondence. The meeting held at the General Assembly in Winnipeg was a good one. Although not all members were present, it was well attended and there was an atmosphere of enthusiasm. We discussed many matters and it was the general feeling that, although the emphasis may have shifted from one field of observation to another, the interest in observational work is increasing and there is more activity now than a couple of years ago.

One of our chief concerns is to find the right people for Co-ordinators of the various observing disciplines and, having found them, to persuade them to accept the responsibility. This year we were fortunate in obtaining two more Co-ordinators. Franklin Loehde of the Edmonton Centre has agreed to be National Co-ordinator of Occultations, while George Ball of the Victoria Centre will be National Co-ordinator, Instrumentation. On the debit side we have to report that Geoffrey Gaherty, who has been Co-ordinator of the Planetary Section for several years, can no longer give the time required, but Archie Ostrander volunteered to take on the Planetary Section in addition to the Lunar Section since the two are so closely related. The complete list is given below.

Standing Committee: Isabel K. Williamson (Montreal), Chairman
Pierre Lemieux (Centre Francais de Montreal)
Earl Milton, Ph.D. (Regina)
R. V. Ramsay (Toronto)

National Co-ordinators:

Aurora - Earl Milton, Ph.D., Dept. Physics, Univ. of Saskatchewan, Regina, Sask.
Comet & Nova - Jim Low, 108 Roy Avenue, Apt. 102, Dorval, Que.
Instrumentation - George Ball, 54 West Maddock Avenue, Victoria, B.C.
Lunar - A. Ostrander, 75 Rabbit Lane, Islington, Ont.
Meteors - S. A. Mott, 2049 Honeywell Avenue, Ottawa 13, Ont.
Occultations - Franklin Loehde, 8332 Jasper Avenue, Edmonton, Alta.
Planetary - A. Ostrander, 75 Rabbit Lane, Islington, Ont.
Variable Stars - Terence Dickinson, 16 Palamar Road, Downsview, Ont.

With this Bulletin are enclosed bulletins from the Co-ordinators of the Aurora and the Comet & Nova Sections. A short time ago you received Bulletin No.2 of the Variable Star Section. Within the next few months you will be hearing from the other Sections. It is our intention to send out series of bulletins every three or four months.

As we have stated before, the Standing Committee has three main objectives: (1) to keep members informed of the observational activities of all Centres, (2) to give help and encouragement to the Centres in developing observational programs, and (3) to develop, ultimately, programs of definite scientific value in which the experienced amateur can participate. We hope that you will respond to the bulletins you receive. If your Centre is active in some field for which as yet there is no Co-ordinator, please write to the National Chairman, for we really do want to hear about your activities.

Isabel K. Williamson, Chairman,
Standing Committee on Observational Activities,
5162 Beimore Avenue,
Montreal 29, Quebec.

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